

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

an electronic manual composed of a plurality of topics;

a reference number table which stores, for each part topic of the electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part is topic has been referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has been in the past was referred to as a search result;

a search process unit which ~~searches contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein the search process unit searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number; and~~

a search result display unit which displays parts topics which resulted from the search process unit, in order based on the reference number; wherein the electronic manual consists of:

- (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or
- (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

2. (Previously Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part topic when the user selects and/or refers to the part topic among parts topics which are displayed by the search result display unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part topic displayed immediately before the user stops displaying of the search results.

1 ~~CA~~  
2  
3 ~~DI~~

5. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts topics.

1  
2  
3

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of searching ~~the parts~~ is a descending order of the reference number of the parts topics.

1  
2

7. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table is incorporated into the electronic manual.

1  
2

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table stores the reference number for each ~~attribute of the user~~ class.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system ~~including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:~~  
an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of topics;  
a reference number table which stores, for each part topic ~~of the electronic manual~~, a reference number expressing the number of times the part topic has been is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated ~~by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic in the past was has been referred to as a search result;~~ and  
a search process unit which searches contents ~~of the parts~~ for topics satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number ~~wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.~~

1 ~~CA~~  
2 ~~D1~~  
3 10. (Currently Amended) A method of searching an electronic manual  
4 which is composed of a plurality of parts topics, wherein the electronic manual  
5 consists of (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an  
6 application program or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary; the method  
7 comprising the steps of:

8 storing, for each part topic, a reference number expressing the number of  
9 times the part is topic was referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is  
10 automatically generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred  
11 to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of  
12 times the respective topic in the past has been referred to;

13 searching contents of the parts topics based on a search condition; wherein  
14 the searching step searches contents of each part in order based on the reference  
15 number; and

displaying parts topics which result from the searching step, in order based  
on the reference number.

11. (Previously Canceled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of  
2 displaying the searched parts topics is a descending order of the reference number of  
3 the parts topics.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of  
2 searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts  
3 topics.

1 ~~DI~~ 14. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly  
2 embodying an electronic manual ~~wherein the electronic manual consists of~~  
3 ~~information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program or~~  
4 ~~is searching of an electronic dictionary, comprising:~~

5 a plurality of parts topics; and

6 a reference number of each part topic, the reference number representing the  
7 number of times the corresponding topic is was referred to as searched results,  
8 wherein the reference number is automatically generated ~~by automatically counting~~  
9 ~~a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference~~  
10 ~~number~~ records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to;  
11 wherein contents of each part topic are searchable in order based on the reference  
12 number.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 14, wherein the  
2 reference number is stored for each attribute class of a user who refers to the part  
3 topic as searched results.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 17, further  
2 comprising: displaying parts topics which are obtained by the searching step as  
3 search results, in order based on the reference number.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts topics, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each part, a reference number expressing how many times the part is topic has been referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated ~~by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past~~ and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic in the past has been referred to; and

searching contents of the parts for topics for satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number

~~wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the actions of:

storing, for each part topic of an electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part topic is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated ~~by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past~~ and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic in the past has been referred to;

~~wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary;~~

searching contents of the parts topics based on a search condition; wherein contents of each part topic are searched in order based on the reference number; and

displaying parts topics which are obtained by the searching step as search results, in order based on the reference number.

19. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising, computer readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable instructions; the instructions being adaptable to enable a computer to operate

4 ~~CA~~ according to the steps of:

5 storing, for each part topic of an electronic manual, a reference number  
6 ~~D1~~ expressing the number of times the part topic is referred to by a user, wherein the  
7 reference number is automatically generated ~~by automatically counting a topic~~  
8 ~~which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number~~  
9 records the number of times the respective topic in the past has been referred to;  
10 ~~wherein the electronic manual consists of (1) information which is to be searched~~  
11 ~~by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic~~  
12 ~~dictionary;~~

13 searching contents of the parts topics based on a search condition; wherein  
14 the searching is ~~searches contents of each part~~ in order based on the reference  
15 number; and

16 displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the  
17 reference number.

---